

**25081—Continued.**

ornamental tree at all seasons of the year. The fruits, which ripen in September, are the size of large, unhulled black walnuts and contain 5 warty seeds the size of chestnuts and the general form of castor-oil seeds.

"The seeds, which make up somewhat more than half by weight of the entire dried fruit, consist of 48 per cent shell and 52 per cent kernel, or 24 per cent oil cake and 28 per cent oil. During the past year the price of the oil in the United States was about 65 cents a gallon of 8 pounds, with linseed at 42 cents.

"For centuries the Chinese have found innumerable uses for wood oil, chief of which may be mentioned the preservation of woodwork from moisture, the water-proofing of cloth, umbrellas, etc., and the making of oil papers and putty; from the oil cake, various calking compounds and fertilizer, and the best India inks from the soot obtained from its combustion. Americans are the only foreigners who have used wood oil to any great extent and then only during the last ten or twelve years. Their appreciation of its good qualities is shown by the steady demand, which has led several importing firms to establish branch houses in the chief exporting centers, Hankow and Hongkong, and by the steadily increasing importations, which grew to 2,000,000 gallons in 1907.

"The wood oil now imported is used almost exclusively in varnish making, but the manufacture of such products as linoleum, enamel paints, and high-grade elastic oilcloths has just commenced, while other uses have been suggested. It belongs to the class of drying oils typified by linseed, but it is much harder, quicker drying, and more impermeable to water, though less lightproof and elastic. Owing to certain physical disadvantages which it possesses, it can not replace linseed, but used in conjunction with it gives most excellent results, especially for outdoor use, where such qualities as it possesses are highly desirable." (*W. Fischer.*)

*Distribution.*—A native of the southeastern part of China, extending from Hongkong north to the province of Hupeh.

**25082 and 25083.**

From China. Presented by Mr. D. MacGregor, Shanghai, through Mr. Frank N. Meyer. Received March 20, 1909.

Seeds of each of the following:

**25082. ASTRAGALUS SINICUS L.**

From near Shanghai. "Used in the Chekiang Province as a leguminous green-manure crop on the low-lying rice fields." (*Meyer.*)

*Distribution.*—A native of the southeastern part of the Chinese Empire, and of Japan.

**25083. ARISAEMA sp. (?)**

From Mokanshan. "Fruit plum colored, aromatic, vinuous flavor; seeds in pulp; fruit the size of a plum." (*MacGregor.*)

**25087. PRUNUS PSEUDO-CERASUS Lindl. Flowering cherry.**

From Japan. Purchased from the Yokohama Nursery Company. Received March, 1909.

"Seedling plants and seeds of the wild cherry of Japan upon which the Japanese bench-graft all their flowering cherries. I am informed by the Yokohama Nursery Company that this wild cherry, in contrast with the double-flowering and other Japanese ornamental varieties, can be reproduced very easily from cuttings, and that the scions of named varieties are grafted on pieces of the root and not budded, as is the custom in this country with the fruiting cherries. May this new stock not possibly